

OPINION



PUBLISHER Ian Proudfoot
GENERAL MANAGER John Willems

Stouffville
Sun-Tribune
6290 Main St.
Stouffville, ON L4A 1G7
www.yorkregion.com

Sun-Tribune

Editorial

905-640-2612
Fax 905-640-8778
Class. 1-800-743-3353

DISTRIBUTION
905-294-8244

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Debora Kelly
dkelly@yrmg.com

BUSINESS MANAGER
Robert Lazurko

DIRECTOR REGIONAL PRODUCTS AND CLASSIFIED
Debra Weller

DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION
Jackie Smart

DIRECTOR, DISTRIBUTION
Tanya Pacheco

DIRECTOR, MARKETING AND SALES DEVELOPMENT
Gord Paolucci

Editor
Jim Mason
jmason@yrmg.com

Advertising Manager
Dave Williams
dwilliams@yrmg.com

Circulation Co-ordinator
Daphne Lewis
dlewis@yrmg.com

York Region Media Group community newspapers

The Sun-Tribune published every Thursday and Saturday is a division of the Metroland Media Group Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Torstar Corporation

Delivery issues?
For all your delivery inquiries please contact
vrcustomerservice@yrmg.com

LETTERS POLICY

All submissions must be less than 400 words and include a daytime telephone number, name and address. The Sun-Tribune reserves the right to publish or not publish and to edit for clarity and space. E-mail jmason@yrmg.com

Ontario Press Council
Canadian Circulation Audit Board Member
CCAB

Tories' job creation plan hits home on Main Street

ISSUE

Tories say lowering electricity costs, cutting regulations will create 300,000 jobs in Ontario.

Are you ready for a provincial election, Whitchurch-Stouffville?

It sure felt like one in west-end Stouffville Tuesday.

Monte McNaughton, MPP for Lambton-Kent-Middlesex, was literally main-streeting on the sidewalk in front of the now-closed Southwire Canada plant on Main Street.

The Ontario PCs' economic development critic was touting the release of his party's latest white paper — its 13th in 14 months — on job development.

The Tories plan to add 300,000 jobs, if elected.

The plan calls for:

- Reducing the electricity rate charged to manufacturers to make them more competitive.

- Eliminating 128,750 regulations;

- Expanding trade internationally and across Canada;

- Preparing the workforce for a 21st-century economy.

The location was no accident.

The Southwire cable plant, which employed 150 workers, closed this spring. It opened in 1968.

The U.S.-based company — the Stars and Stripes boldly flew in the photo opp — is now filling orders for wire and cable

at other locations, which are closer to the raw materials the company uses.

In Mr. McNaughton's view as he spoke was Teva Canada, the growing Main Street pharmaceutical plant.

It's a stark contrast from Southwire's sad story.

Three years ago, the drug maker received a \$6.5-million grant from the Ontario government. The cash injection allowed the plant to retain its 182 skilled workers and hire 20 new employees.

Will you, the electorate, buy this PC plan, and the other white papers, this time?

You didn't vote Tory in the last two provincial elections, despite major mistakes made by the then Dalton McGuinty-led Liberals.

Now, with gas plant and air ambulance scandals still raging, is it finally PC leader Tim Hudak and his team's turn to take over at Queen's Park?

Or does the electorate remember Mike Harris and his far-right regime too well?

Are memories of the Bob Rae team too strong for Ontario to ever elect another NDP government?

You'll go the polls on Oct. 1, 2015, if not earlier, Whitchurch-Stouffville.

BOTTOM LINE: Are you dissatisfied enough with Liberals to elect NDP or PCs next year?

Is there an issue about which you are passionate? You could be a Saturday Forum contributor and get the chance to have your piece published along with your name and headshot. E-mail your 450-word submission to jmason@yrmg.com

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Newspaper deserved answers

Re: Housing, traffic, growth large local concerns, July 11.

What a great article Sandra Bolan wrote about our top local concerns. She really covered a lot and I am very happy she received and printed quotes from so many people. Their comments reflect community pride, care and concern for others, and I love it.

While I am also pleased Mayor Emmer-son and councillors Clyde Smith and Susanne Hilton took time to be included in the article, I am disappointed Phil Bannon, Ken Ferdinands and Richard Bartley did not respond in time to be included.

We were given a deadline, they could have put in their two cents, let their constituents know they were being represented. It's nice to read something in the newspaper your councillor has said on your behalf, especially if you voted for them.

Then there's Rob Hargrave: "Councillor Rob Hargrave did not want to respond, citing some of those issues could become the basis for an election campaign and, as he has yet to reveal his intentions, he did not

want to divulge those either."

He's waiting to see how things pan out while others actively endeavour to make changes and improvements, putting their necks on the line. If the newspaper is working on an important article about the town and asks you for input, give it something.

While he prefers to take a pass on response, by contrast, I prefer to be part of the conversation, seizing the opportunity to point out things I would like to work to improve for everybody.

If you are given an offer to get something important out there, and for free, you graciously take advantage of it.

I sent e-mails to the Stouffville Multicultural Association's membership, the Royal Canadian Legion, my Guiding group and others, so I could submit a four-page word document to Ms Bolan, with everything in it people have told me or that I received in that day. That's communication.

JOANNE IANNUZZI
STOUFFVILLE

Editor's Note: Ms Iannuzzi has announced she will seek the Ward 6 seat on council in 2014.

Ball hockey rink would give kids place to play

With the imminent decommissioning of the current skate board park, my kids are again saying, "Now what?"

After a review of the town's Memorial Park plan poster, it's evident that nothing is being planned for the current location.

This leaves us surrounding residents of the downtown park wondering, will there be anything left in the north end of this park, the reason we moved to this part of town in the first place?

So I asked my kids, and some friends they had over at the time: if you were in charge, what would you put in the current skateboard park's location?

The overwhelming response: an outdoor ball hockey rink, a la Canlan Sports in Scarborough.

What an exceptional idea, I thought.

The space and the pad are already there, there is ample parking. And so I investigated.

HAVE YOUR SAY, STOUFFVILLE

► What do you think of these issues or any others?
E-mail jmason@yrmg.com

Canlan runs outdoor ball hockey leagues on its court in the summertime, with plans to ice the court in the winter for skating leagues.

Niagara Falls is home to the Niagara Falls Ball Hockey Club, a division of the world's largest outdoor ball hockey operator, Ball Hockey Ontario.

Fresh air, exercise and Canada's game.

What a concept!

I remember admiring its facility during a spring hockey tournament trip, thinking, what a great facility for the community.

Ball Hockey Ontario also hosts leagues in Barrie.

Brampton, Hamilton, Orillia and more. Affiliates of the organization run men's, women's and children's leagues, as well as summer camps, birthday parties and more.

Of course, a simpler idea would be to run the facility through the town itself, with a schedule that appeals to everyone: leagues, shinny drop-in times, leisure skating (winter), day camps and reservation opportunities.

A good example of this is the Kew Gardens rink in the Beaches neighbourhood of Toronto.

As a former resident of this neighbourhood, I can attest to the popularity of the rink both in summer and winter.

Fresh air, exercise and Canada's game. What a concept!

The talk about town is our youth say there is nothing to do.

My mom used to say, "Go outside, or I'll find something for you to do."

Why not give them another option?

SARA SEAWARD
STOUFFVILLE